

# **Arya Krishnan – Elementary School**

## **Jones Lane Elementary School, 2nd grade, First Place**

**2022 Girl Power Contest – Montgomery County, MD**

**Arya Krishnan, age 7**

**What three accomplishments do you believe would make the biggest impact over the next 50 years?**

Ms. Rose is the closest woman in my life. Ms. Rose is not my mother. She tells me that she met me when I was 2.5 years old in the day care center. My mom passed away suddenly when I was 3. I do not have any memory of her. I see photos but cannot remember her. Ms. Rose came to help my dad from then. I am 7 years old now. So, I have known Ms. Rose for 4 years. That is more than half my life!

This part is about Ms. Rose. She wants to buy her own place. I like looking at homes with her. It is so costly for her to buy her own place. She came from Liberia when she was young, studied here and works here. She works hard, she helps her family and she helps my family too! The first thing that I hope will happen is she can buy her own place. She is young. I am not supposed to write her age here. My dad said so. She works hard. I hope she is able to buy her own place. I love Ms. Rose. The first thing I wish for is equity.

I love my teachers. I am in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade now. I love my Kindergarten teacher, my 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and my 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. They are EPIC! We should do more for our teachers. My brother is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and he also likes his teachers a lot. I don't think he will say love much as he is 12. We should pay teachers more. We should not let them buy school supplies from their money. Google said about 70% of teachers in our country are women. We should do more for them. My second wish is good pay for the teachers, especially the women teachers.

The third thing is my best friends who are girls should be able to do whatever they dream about. One of my best friends wants to be a NASA engineer. She is very smart. She should be able to do what she wants to do. Another friend wants to either be a doctor or a teacher. Maybe she should do both. She is also very smart. No one should tell her that she cannot do both. They should be able to do whatever they wish for and also be a mom. They should not have to pick one or the other. My final wish is freedom for girls to do what they want and equal opportunities.

**Julia Liao - Elementary School**  
**Washington Episcopal School, 3rd Grade, Honorable Mention**

## Women who Lead the World

One bright day in Africa Alexa Canady, Johanna Lucht, and Jane Goodall were talking. They were talking about each other's accomplishments since they graduated from college.

"I heard you became the first African American neurosurgeon, it must be hard" said Jane to Alexa.

"Oh it is sure difficult but it also makes me happy when I see people getting better after their surgery. Didn't you become a type of chimpanzee scientist?" said Alexa to Jane.

"Yep, it's a fun job because I get to play with chimpanzees and study their behavior. Johanna you became the first deaf

**Julia Liao - Elementary School**  
**Washington Episcopal School, 3rd Grade, Honorable Mention**

person to engineer in a active crewed mission control at NASA, that is pretty cool," said Jane to Johanna.

"Uh-huh its defintly interesting and it's also very challenging because I can't hear everything clearly. Right now we're trying to figure out if there's another planet where human beings can live" said Johanna.

"That's awesome" said Alexa. "I wish we could have enviromental friendly ships. I came to Africa by ship, one day I was looking out the deck and so much oil poured out of the ship. If marine animals live in a ocean full of oil they could die." said Jane.

"That's true! In the hospital there's also a problem, we can't figure out what disease our patients have until a very late

**Julia Liao - Elementary School**  
**Washington Episcopal School, 3rd Grade, Honorable Mention**

stage. A machine that can detect diseases at an early stage would really help" said Alexa.

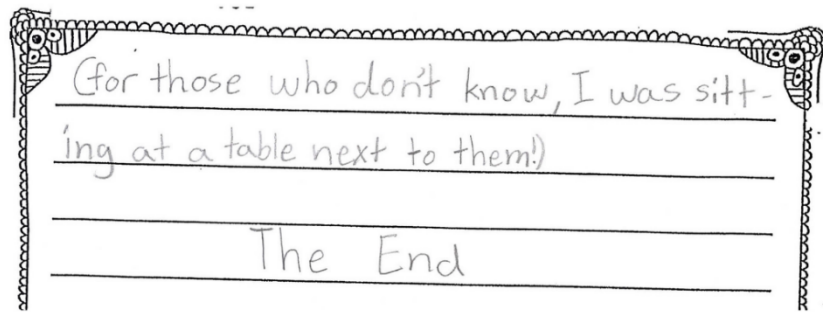
"You two have very good ideas, now we have to try and make it happen. We have to call scientists and tell them our plans, call the newspaper and tell them to ask people to be aware of our plans, and ask some inventors to work with the scientists. Our goal is to be done in 50 years" said Johanna.

"Great" said Alexa.

"Fantastic" said Jane.

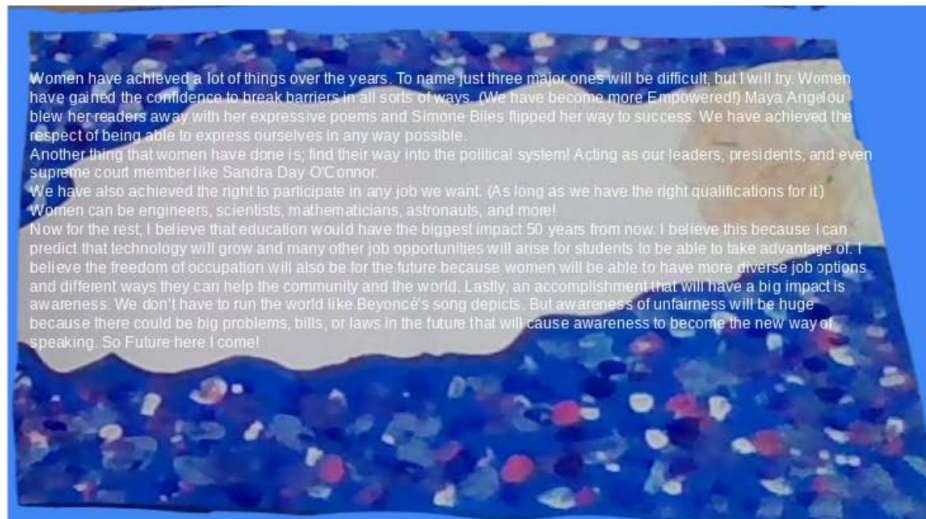
After some more arrangements, they set off to work. When I listened to that conversation my mind was blown. They weren't just famous because of their jobs, they were also innovators. I can't wait for those inventions to come out.

**Julia Liao - Elementary School**  
**Washington Episcopal School, 3rd Grade, Honorable Mention**





## **Nubian Lloyd - Middle School Gaithersburg Middle School, 8th grade, First Place**



### **Clear Version of text:**

**Women have achieved a lot of things over the years. To name just three major ones will be difficult, but I will try. Women have gained the confidence to break barriers in all sorts of ways.**

**(We have become more Empowered!) Maya Angelou blew her readers away with her expressive poems and Simone Biles flipped her way to success. We have achieved the respect of being able to express ourselves in any way possible.**

**Another thing that women have done is; find their way into the political system! Acting as our leaders, presidents, and even supreme court member like Sandra Day O'Conner. We have also achieved the right to participate in any job we want. (As long as we have the right qualifications for it.) Women can be engineers, scientists, mathematicians, astronauts, and more!**

**Now for the rest, I believe that education would have the biggest impact 50 years from now. I believe this because I can predict that technology will grow and many other job opportunities will arise for students to be able to take advantage of. I believe the freedom of occupation will also be for the future because women will be able to have more diverse job options and different ways they can help the community and the world. Lastly, an accomplishment that will have a big impact is awareness. We don't have to run the world like Beyoncé's song depicts. But awareness of unfairness will be huge because there could be big problems, bills, or laws in the future that will cause awareness to become the new way of speaking. So Future here I come!**

# **Sara Benachenhou - Middle School**

## **Julius West Middle School, 8th Grade, Honorable Mention**

**Women**

**By: Sara Benachenhou**

Millions of accomplishments women have achieved  
are from the strengths that maltreated,  
suppressed, Muslim girls face.  
Without their support,  
The future women would face wouldn't shine as bright.

Brave,  
Like Malala Yousefzai.  
When the whole world was against her advocating for education,  
she still fought back.  
No matter what obstacles they set to stop her,  
she kept advancing,  
and became the youngest Nobel Peace laureate in history.

Intelligent,  
Like Saleemah Abdul-Ghafur.  
She never let religious stereotypes get in her way,  
and acted against sexism.  
Her incredible mind and strong heart  
now works for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation,  
still advocating for the right to a happy, healthy life.

Dedicated,  
Like Assia Djebar.  
When faced with segregation and oppression,  
She challenged the oppressors with her art.  
And became the first Algerian and Muslim woman,  
to go to one of France's exclusive schools.

These people,  
and countless others  
are some of the biggest accomplishments in history.  
And I hope in the next 50 years,  
countless little girls with big dreams,  
carry on and become Women with huge accomplishments.

# **Nuha Nadeem - High School**

## **Gaithersburg Middle School, 8th grade, First Place**

### We of Tenacity and Valiance

By: Nuha Nadeem

Once upon a time, not so long ago,  
Women decided to take their place through merit and being bold.  
Listening to their legends will leave your face aglow,  
Their achievements in the last 50 years, from you I will not withhold.

Women have many times been thought of as less than;  
In the field of sports, this is especially a lament.  
In 1973, to the pleasure of many a fan,  
Billie Jean King proved we're just as good as men!

Bobby Riggs didn't think that he could be beat  
By any women in the sport of tennis, hence,  
In American women's tennis, he challenged the elite  
The Battle of the Sexes is what then commenced

The undisputable victory of King  
Led it to be known, all over,  
That to sports, equality is what we bring.  
The gap between women and men was made a little closer.

Now, let me tell you of a woman known as Mae Jamison,  
The first African-American woman who flew to space, in 1992.  
Following her predecessor Sally Ride, continuing to show everyone  
That women can thrive in space just as well as men, it's true.

In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act led the charge,  
To a future in which those who perpetrate abuse are brought to heel.  
First protecting women, it now protects all from any abusers at large.  
Safety and security, dreams from those long since past made real.

Now, if you would please look to the future,  
And see all that we still must steadily accomplish  
In the next 50 years, shocking those that doubt into stupor.  
Of what we do next, we will simply astonish.

The Equal Rights Amendment  
Has not yet come to pass



## **Nuha Nadeem - High School Gaithersburg Middle School, 8th grade, First Place**

The day it does would be magnificent  
For we would no longer be dolls of glass

We shouldn't have to fight  
For the respect that we have earned  
To pass the ERA might  
Show that misogynists have learned

The first female United States President  
Would it not be a wonderful sight to see?  
It would certainly set a new precedent,  
A blessing to those who say "Down with the patriarchy!"

To accompany that first, that standard-setting goal,  
Future parity in Congress would certainly be nice.  
144 of 539 seats in the 117th Congress is not much of the whole;  
Of the 539 seats, roughly 269 would suffice.

There is so much more I could tell you,  
But the legends would go on forever.  
These few tales make our tenacity come through.  
The last thing to say is: women are not any less, whatsoever.

# **Yoksha Muruganantham - High School**

## **Poolesville High School, 11th Grade, Honorable Mention**

### *From the Past, and into the Future*

Our journey to our present state  
Wasn't without protests and marches  
Wasn't without a passion to combat injustice  
Wasn't without motivation to see our world  
change for the better

We've come a long way  
From being denied the right to vote  
From not holding positions in government  
From not being allowed to hold money and property  
without a man

But now we see progress

The year was 1997  
Where one of the greatest accomplishments in our history occurred  
Where one inspirational woman took the world stage- Madeleine Albright  
Where she held one important job- our first female Secretary of State  
Where she had one vision, one passion- to make the world a fairer place  
And may she live forever in our heart

Many years passed until 2011  
Where we saw not one, but three women make their mark on the world  
Where Ellen Johnson Sireleaf, Leymah Gbowee, and Tawakkul Karman were recognized  
Where they received the Nobel Peace Prize  
Sireleaf, for becoming the first female Head of State in Africa and working to achieve peace  
Gbowee, for founding of the Women in Peacebuilding Network and other such organizations  
Karman, for advocating for women's rights- and the first Arab female to get the prize  
Where they proved the worth of women  
to the world

Then came 2016  
Where we note another historical moment  
Where the first female president was nominated  
Where she, Hillary Clinton, was our representative  
Where she gave it her all, but just fell a little short  
maybe in the political race, but not in respect

## **Yoksha Muruganantham - High School Poolesville High School, 11th Grade, Honorable Mention**

And while we've come a long way  
We still have a longer road ahead of us  
We have to keep fighting for our rights  
We have to strive to make our future  
Even better than our present

Equal Pay is constantly debated  
We have to make a bigger statement  
We have to get equal payment  
We all are worth the same  
after all

But there's more

And yes, we've held positions in government  
We've been constantly present up there  
We've made progress, but none of us have been president of America  
We can get there though; we're so close  
Now's not the time to give up

But there's more

Violence and abuse are unfortunately prevalent  
We all deserve the right to feel safe  
We all deserve to be treated right  
We all must take a stand for better security  
So that no one has to endure this pain

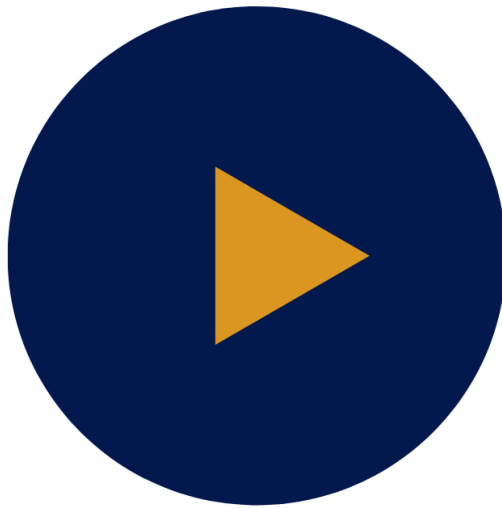
Our past beliefs and actions  
Helped foster our present  
Helped us live in a more equal society  
Helped us realize how lucky we are  
And for that, I thank everyone who took a stand

But the battle has just begun  
Our world is still plagued with inequality  
Our mission is to learn from our present and work towards our future  
Our goal should be to make our world a place where every individual  
can feel safe, proud, and equal

**Pamela Gordimer – Adult  
First Place**



**Natalie Jean – Adult  
Honorable Mention**



**"We Rise"**